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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The semi-annual meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America was held in conjunction with the American Library Association at Asheville, May 25-28, 1907. This first visit of the Society to the South was made the occasion of a series of papers on the history of printing in that section. The first presses of Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama were described by Dr Thomas M. Owen, those of South Carolina by A. S. Salley, Jr., of Tennessee by Edwin Wiley. An essay on early printing in North Carolina also, by Dr Stephen B. Weeks, was read by title.

The second session was devoted to the discussion of two questions in practical bibliography, "The bibliographical work of state libraries" and "A handbook of special collections in American libraries." The bibliographical work of the California state library, especially its indexing of California newspapers, was described by W. R. Watson, and the cooperation between the Connecticut state library and other libraries of the state in the preparation of a Connecticut bibliography was described by G. S. Godard.

These two types of state bibliographical activity were discussed at some length by D. C. Brown, Dr T. M. Owen and others.

The scope of "A handbook of special collections in American libraries" and the methods to be followed in its preparation were considered from various points of view. The discussion was opened by C. W. Andrews; N. D. C. Hodges presented letters from prominent scientists, which raised some doubts as to the utility of such a handbook to men of science. A lively debate followed, in which Dr E. C. Richardson, Victor H. Paltsits, and others pointed out the value of such a bibliographical tool, especially in the different branches of historical research, and in the development of library collections.

Reports were presented by the Committee on Incunabula and by the Committee on colonial laws. The officers of the Society were re-elected for the ensuing year, T. L. Cole of Washington being added to the Council.

W. DAWSON JOHNSTON,
Secretary.